

1 **Claims**

- 2 1. A method of promoting tissue repair
3 comprising the step of administering a
4 compound which modulates the function of beta
5 1 integrin to a tissue in need of repair.
6
- 7 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
8 compound modulates the metalloproteinase
9 (MMP) balance.
10
- 11 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
12 compound modulates apoptosis.
13
- 14 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the
15 modulation of the apoptotic activity has a
16 resultant modulation in the metalloproteinase
17 (MMP) balance.
18
- 19 5. An assay method for identifying compounds
20 suitable for use in tissue repair, said assay
21 comprising the steps of:
22 - providing a candidate compound,
23 - bringing the candidate compound into contact
24 with beta 1 integrin,
25 - determining the presence or absence of
26 modulation of beta 1 integrin activity by the
27 candidate compound,

1 wherein modulation of beta 1 integrin activity
2 is indicative of utility of that compound in
3 tissue repair.

4

5 6. A method of claim 5 wherein modulation of
6 beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
7 monitoring variance in the MMP level.

8

9 7. A method of claim 5 or 6 wherein modulation
10 of beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
11 the resulting modulation on apoptosis.

12

13 8. A method of any one of the preceding claims
14 wherein the compound modulates the function
15 of beta 1 integrin, wherein modulation
16 includes a change in the function of, or the
17 shedding of beta 1 integrin.

18

19 9. A method of any one of the preceding claims
20 wherein the compound binds the beta 1
21 integrin molecule in the region of amino acid
22 residues 82 to 87 of the sequence of the
23 mature beta 1 integrin molecule.

24

25 10. A method of any one of the preceding claims
26 wherein the compound binds the amino acid
27 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, TAEKLLK.

28

- 1 11. A method as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding claims wherein the compound is a
3 synthetic peptide.
4
- 5 12. A method as claimed in any one of the
6 preceding claims wherein the compound is an
7 antibody.
8
- 9 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 6
10 to 9 wherein the compound is a humanised or
11 chimaeric antibody.
12
- 13 14. Use of a compound which binds to the beta 1
14 integrin in the preparation of a medicament
15 for the treatment of injured tissue.
16
- 17 15. Use of a compound according to claim 12,
18 wherein the compound is an antibody.
- 19 16. Use of a compound according to claim 13,
20 wherein the antibody is the monoclonal
21 antibody produced by the commercial clone
22 JB1a.
- 23 17. A compound identified by the method of claim
24 5.
- 25 18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in
26 tissue repair wherein the composition
27 includes as an active ingredient, a compound
28 which modifies the function of beta 1
29 integrin.
30